

**APPENDIX C  
EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 11  
STATE PLANT HEALTH RESPONSE PLAN**

**PRIMARY AGENCIES:** Washington State Department of Agriculture

**SUPPORT AGENCIES:** Washington State Office of the Attorney General  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
Washington State Department of Health  
Washington State Department of Labor and Industries  
Washington State Department of Transportation  
Washington State Military Department  
Emergency Management Division  
National Guard  
Washington State Department of Social and Health Services  
Washington State Patrol  
Washington State University  
Cooperative Extension Service  
Washington State Department of Community Trade and Economic Development  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Farm Service Agency  
Environmental Protection Agency  
American Red Cross  
Local Jurisdiction Emergency Management Directors  
Local Jurisdiction Public Health Districts

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Appendix to Emergency Support Function (ESF) 11 - State Plant Health Response Plan (SPHRP) is to provide guidelines for rapid response to Plant Health Events affecting the health, safety, and welfare of human beings and the viability of the agriculture sector. Plant Health Events are caused by disease, insects or pests, toxic substances, terrorism, natural or technological disasters.

**II. POLICIES**

- A. The Washington State Departments of Agriculture (WSDA) represents plant health concerns of the state and maintains liaison with the emergency management and environmental protection agencies; departments and/or agencies that represent public health, and the agriculture community.
- B. WSDA will respond to the Plant Health Event as outlined in the ***Washington Plant Health Emergency Management Plan*** developed jointly with USDA-APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine.

- C. The Initial Decision Group (IDG) within the Department of Agriculture will evaluate the plant emergency situation and determine which of the following groups will be activated to respond to the incident or event.
- D. The Initial Decision Group will determine if the activation of Emergency Support Function 11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources is required. In conjunction with the affected jurisdiction determine if a Governor's Proclamation of Emergency is required to ensure necessary resources are available for the response.
- E. The coordinating body responsible for planning all plant response and recovery activities for the **Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan** (CEMP) in the event of a Plant Health Event will be the WSDA and the Primary Decision Group (PDG) described in Tab A. The Primary Decision Group will determine which agencies from the Secondary Decision Group (SDG) are required to support the response and recovery from the incident.

### III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

Plant health events that overwhelm local jurisdiction resources, and are of such a scale that existing agreements may not provide an adequate response, are to be acted upon under the coordination of the WSDA, acting consistently within its statutory mandate, and under the coordination authority of the state EMD. Recovery and recovery activities will be consistent with the CEMP. Plant health responders (public or private) who meet training and qualification standards established by the Department of Agriculture will be designated as emergency workers by the state EMD. Response and recovery activities will be governed by procedures established in Tab A and B with the WSDA responsible for their implementation.

### IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The WSDA is the primary organization for coordination and direction and control of plant health services and allied associations and agencies assisting in emergencies and disasters, and are responsible for the following:

- 1. Communications with recognized plant health providers, and agencies.
- 2. Appointment of the State Incident Command representative.
- 3. Coordination of emergency management activities with state EMD, Department of Health (DOH), and local jurisdictions.
- 4. Coordination of multi-state event response and recovery with local, state, and federal plant health response agencies and appropriate emergency management agencies.
- 6. Activation of the telephone tree of emergency plant health response and agency personnel resources, when necessary.

7. Coordination of all press releases and public service announcements with the state EMD Public Information Officer (PIO) and the established Joint Information Center.
9. Maintenance of State Agency Emergency/Disaster Liaison Coordinator's communication with regulatory agencies.
10. Determining which plant health and response personnel are qualified to enter the area of the event.

## **V. DIRECTION AND CONTROL**

- A. WSDA, will establish Incident Command, and will coordinate activities with the recognized plant health responders.
- B. The use of the Incident Command System as outlined in the National Incident Management System shall be used to manage the incident and provide a smooth transition and integration of additional resources as required. WSDA, USDA, and the local jurisdiction will establish a Unified Command to manage the incident as soon as practical.

## **VI. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT**

During state emergencies or disasters the line of succession for the State Incident Command representative will be, respectively, the Washington State Plant Director, the Washington State Assistant State Plant Director, and other WSDA personnel as designated by the Director.

## **VII. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS**

The WSDA assigns a State Agency Emergency/Disaster Liaison Coordinator who will serve at the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC) when activated for exercises, emergencies, or disasters and provide the Initial Decision Group, Primary Decision Group, and Secondary Decision Group any pertinent information from information gathered or activities at the State EOC.

## **VIII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

WSDA will annually review this Appendix to ESF 11 to ensure that necessary updates and revisions are prepared, coordinated, and submitted, based on experiences from exercises, emergencies, and disasters.

## **IX. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS**

See CEMP Basic Plan, Appendix 4.